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## Book Reviews

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*Caesar: Episodes from the Gallic and Civil Wars.* With Introduction, Notes, and Vocabulary. By MAURICE W. MATHER. New York: American Book Co., 1905. Pp. 549. \$1.25.

In his preface to *Episodes from the Gallic and Civil Wars*, Dr. Mather says truly that in the average school only a part of Caesar can be read, so that the real question is: How shall that portion be selected? When he asserts further that the better method of selection "is to take from the different books those episodes which are of greatest interest and importance," the issue is plainly stated. If one agrees with Dr. Mather upon this point—as the writer is inclined to do—it will not be difficult to show that in this work the teacher of classics has an excellent selection of those portions of Caesar best worth the study of pupils in secondary schools.

The selections include, of the *Gallic War*, chaps. 1-29 of the first book (Helvetian War); 15-28 of the second book (War with the Nervii); books iii and iv entire; from book v, nineteen chapters describing the second expedition to Britain; eighteen chapters from book vi, containing an account of the traits and customs of the Gauls and Germans, and an interesting bit about the big game of the Hercynian Forest; and in thirty-three chapters taken from book vii are told the story of the repulse at Gergovia, and the desperately contested siege of Alesia.

It would not be easy to make up a body of excerpts equivalent to the first four books of the *Gallic War* more important in matter or more representative of Caesar's Latinity.

The *Civil War* is practically unknown to pupils in our preparatory schools, and hardly better known to college students. Credit is due the editor for making this important work readily accessible to them. Twenty-two chapters selected from the second book of the *Civil War*, and more than ninety from the third, covering dramatic episodes in this less familiar field, fairly represent the matter and manner of Caesar's story of that internecine struggle.

The Latin text followed by the editor in the selections from the two works is that approved by critical scholarship. The notes have been prepared in such a way that classes can begin with the first, or with the second book of the *Gallic War*. The notes are not excessive in amount, and are, in a marked degree, explicit, helpful, and enlightening. The translations deserve close attention from pupils because of their aptness, and at times remind one of the late Professor Lane's felicitous renderings.

All long vowels, including "hidden quantities," are marked in the text and the vocabulary, but not in the notes. Care has been taken to give in full the principal

parts of all except the simplest verbs, and to print in full the genitive of all nouns likely to perplex the tyro.

The number of maps and plans is hardly large enough. The illustrations (the sources of which are given) are pertinent, but less abundant than in some other well-known editions of Caesar. The various topics of the introduction are adequately treated. The subject of military antiquities is purposely given brief treatment, but is well handled, and is as long as pupils will master.

The method of grouping at the bottom of the page references to the five most widely used Latin grammars, seems to be an innovation, but is worth the trial. One feels that the editor does not consider Caesar's text as a *corpus vile* chiefly valuable for grammatical dissection, but rather as a work of great historical importance and of positive literary merit.

We believe that Dr. Mather has executed his task (not his first essay in the classical field) with care, scholarship, and good judgment, and that *Episodes of the Gallic and Civil Wars* deserves the careful attention of all teachers of Caesar, and in particular of those who wish to enlarge or diversify the scope of reading in that author.

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*A Handbook of Homeric Study.* By HENRY BROWNE. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1905. Pp. xvi+333; 22 plates. \$2.

The writer's aim is to treat in one book "the mass of complex problems" which confront the student of Homer and are not adequately dealt with by the usual dictionaries, commentaries, and handbooks of literature. The material is mainly grouped around the following general topics: the relation of the cyclic poems to the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the history of Homer's text, the composition and authorship of the Homeric poems (supplemented by a history of the controversy on this subject), Homeric life (including geography), and the problem of the Homeric people, whence they came, and to what stock and civilization they belonged. In connection with this last topic the excavations of the last thirty-five years are taken up, and their more important general results are indicated. The treatment of Homeric life naturally extends only to its more general and obvious features, and to the chief problems connected with it. The same is still more true of Homeric grammar, which is properly given a very secondary place, for no one could expect a book like this to take the place of special works on grammar and antiquities. The last chapter of the book is a short one dealing with the epic art of Homer, and this is followed by a reasonably full index.

It is to be feared that a large majority of our teachers of Greek in secondary schools, as well as some who are teaching in college, have no adequate idea of what Homeric study includes. They will leave Mr. Browne's book with a much broader and more connected view of the subject, such as will enable them to enjoy the poems more, and, in addition, enliven their teaching of them. But Jebb's *Introduction to Homer* would already have done this for them. What, then, does Mr. Browne's book add? In the first place, it has the advantage of